REMARKS

Reconsideration of all grounds of objection and rejection are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-17, as shown above, remain pending herein.

Applicants note that this application was erroneously abandoned by the U.S.P.T.O., and the Applicants concurrently have filed a petition to withdraw from the abandonment. The Final Office Action dated July 28, 2004 was erroneously sent to the old address despite Applicants have filed a request to change the Customer number and its associated address which was accepted by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Office on December 18, 2003.

Applicants also note that we have made a good faith effort to comply with all the requirements of the latest Office Action of July 28, 2004. In regard to objection to the FIG. 1, Applicants have amend the specification to reflect the label numbers in FIG. 1 as suggested by the Examiner. As such, a request to withdraw the objection to FIG. 1 is respectfully requested.

Further, the Office Action has maintained rejections of claim amendments made on October 15, 2002 (paper #14) and March 8, 2002 (paper #22) as they both introduce new matter. Support for March 8, 2002 amendment can be found at least at page 11, line 8-10, wherein the adaptation routine can be exercised against the recognition data on-the-fly, namely, as live input data is being recognized.

Also, support for October 15, 2002 amendment can be found through out the specification, which discloses a plurality of adaptation algorithms. The Hidden Markov Model is an adaptation algorithm, and the Word Bigram Statistics is also an adaptation

algorithm. Fig. 3 (the graph, originally Fig. 5) illustrates an example of when two adaptation algorithms, The HMM and Word Bigram Statistics adaptation algorithm, are combined. Fig. 1 provides a flowchart of the adaptive technique. The specification at page 10, lines 5-15 discloses, for example, that at step 30 an adaptation algorithm, or a plurality of adaptation algorithms, is executed against the information to increase the accuracy of the engine. The algorithm (or a combination thereof) may be based on an acoustic model, a language model, a pronunciation model, or some combination thereof. In addition, please see page 11 of the specification at lines 15-24, which discusses Hidden Markov Model adaptation algorithms, Word Bigram Statistics Adaptation algorithm, a phonetic transcription adaptation algorithm, to name just a few. With regard to "selecting" Applicants refer to at least page 5 of the instant specification, which discloses that the Automatic Speech Recognizer (ASR) "tune" the ASR engine , wherein the imperfect output of the recognizer itself is preferably the only information sued to supervise the transcription of live input speech data, which is analyzed by one or more adaptation algorithms, and the recognizer is retuned as necessary to increase it recognition accuracy. Furthermore, the specification at page 11 states that "[T]he adaptation algorithms are preferably speaker-independent, and **they are selected** to enable the ASR engine to learn such application-specific features as channel characteristics, dialects, pronunciation idiosyncrasies, and speaking styles. ..." (emphasis in boldface and underlining added).

Thus, for at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that amendments made on October 15, 2002 (paper #14) and March 8, 2002 (paper #22) are fully supported and that Applicants are in full compliance with both U.S.C.§112, first

paragraph, as well as §132 (regarding new matter). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.§103 over Sabourin (U.S. 6,208,964) in view of Rowden ("Speech Processing"). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Sabourin and Rowden fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements recited by Applicant's claims. Although Rowden discloses the use of algorithms to achieve required transformations, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of reference still at least fails to disclose or suggest that: <u>without supervision,</u> selecting at least one adaptation algorithm from a plurality of adaptation algorithms, and applying the selected adaptation algorithm to the received live input data, <u>containing only form of speech data required for executing the adaptation algorithm</u>, as it is being recognized to improve at least one application-specific feature for the recognition accuracy of the speech recognizer.

Support for this can be found at least page 9, lines 16-25, wherein as there is no requirement for humans to listen to the speech data, significant data-reduction may be obtained by storing only the form of the speech data that is required for executing the adaptation algorithms which can result in reduction in cost.

As neither the combination of teachings of Sabourin and Rowden, nor either of said references discloses or suggests the aforementioned feature, it is respectfully submitted that none of the instant claims would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art in view of the combination of references.

For at least this reason, base claims 1, 14 and 16 are patentable over the combination of references. In addition, all of the claims dependent on one of the above base claims are patentable at least for its dependence on an allowable claim.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Piotrowski
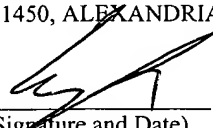Registration No. 42,079

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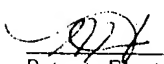
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